Cyber-Bullying Parent Workshop

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EDUC661

**Topic**

The chosen topic for this presentation is cyber-bullying. It is unfortunately possible that although this is primarily geared at parents of middle and high school students has information important for elementary parents to hear as well. Students will often tease and joke with other peers and this joking and play can quickly turn malicious. With the increase in access and interest toward technology by children and students and often times a naïveté by parents the risk for harm to students is perhaps underestimated.

Parents will allow students to use the computer and Internet and cell phones with cameras and will not monitor closely the use of these items out of ignorance, fear their student will feel mistrust or some other equally harmful reason. Authors such as Gillespie (2006), and Zirkel (2009) as well as information gathered from Teen ‘sexting’… (2009) contribute valuable information about this current trend. The student chose to examine cyber-bullying, and the ramifications of facebook and sexting with regards to bullying. This workshop will serve as a prevention tool, increasing parent awareness and an open forum for questions to be raised of other parents to possibly provide support and a united front.

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**Presentation Summary**

The student will begin the presentation with an attention drawing in exercise. She will then move on to introducing the topic of cyber-bullying, she will encourage the parents to share with her what they know about cyber-bullying. After the parents have been given an opportunity to share what they know, the presentation will commence. Encouraging audience participation will keep the audience engaged, and it will aid the presenter in knowing if she will need to adjust her focus. The presenter will start with brief definitions about bullying and cyber-bullying.

The presenter will then share some brief information about Facebook, including some of the benefits and downfalls. She will also explain a few of Facebook’s safety precautions and how a parent can take advantage of the precautions. After going through and increasing the awareness of parents with regards to Facebook the presenter will transition to cyber-bullying and sexting.

The presenter will poll the audience to determine how many know what sexting is and then continue to provide a definition for the audience. The presenter will caution the parents about the potential legal ramifications of sexting.

After explaining cyber-bullying, the presenter will then encourage the parents to take on an active role in their child’s “cyber life” which will include parenting skills, communication skills, active listening skills and a plea to the parents to participate in their child’s cyber experience. Finally the presenter will include national websites regarding bullying. As well as resources to cancel the social media accounts of their children if they deem this step necessary.

**Presentation Procedures**:

An announcement will be made at orientation as well as a calendar of all of the counseling events for the year at orientation including a date and time for this presentation. A phone call through the automatic notification system will go out to every listed phone number in the student data system reminding them of this valuable workshop. An email will be sent to every email on file with the office repeating the information provided in the phone call.

The first procedure utilized by the student during the workshop is an induction and warm-up, she uses a simple positive reinforcing exercise by asking everyone in the audiece to turn to the person next to you say, "I'm glad you're here" and then turn to the person next to you and say, “You may be the most important means of preventing your child from bullying and being bullied “. The next step utilized by the student is to ask before telling. She polls the audience to determine how much they know collectively before beginning the presentation. After the audience is engaged the presenter provides her audience with definitions of the topic and the necessary skills to fully investigate whether their child is at risk.

To personalize the topic, the presenter shows screen shots of various aspects of the Facebook process, she also appeals cognitively to parents who would have to face the consequences of the actions of their children. To process and summarize the data the presenter will provide parents with steps they can take to communicate well with their children. The presenter will encourage the audience to ask someone next to them an open-ended question. These skills will not be limited to cyber-bullying, bullying, Facebook or sexting but will be larger principles of skills for their usage. The presentation will end with a summary of the topic and an opportunity for questions.

**Reference list**

# CBS News (2009). 'Sexting' common among young people: U.S. poll. Retrieved Decemer 30, 2009, from, http://www.cbc.ca/news/yourview/2009/12/sexting-are-you-concerned-about-your-teen.html

Gillespie, A. (2006). Cyber-bullying and Harassment of Teenagers: The Legal Response. *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, *28*(2), 123-136. doi:10.1080/09649060600973772.

Teen 'sexting’ attracts attention of prosecutors. (2009). *Contemporary Sexuality*, *43*(5), 8. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete database.

Zirkel, P. (2009). All a Twitter About Sexting. *Phi Delta Kappan*, *91*(2), 76-77. Retrieved from Academic Search Complete database.

**Presentation**

File has been uploaded to wiki and live text